

KAZAKHSTAN







Environment situation in Kazakhstan

- ◆ degradation of the lands and impoverishments of landscapes: 66% of territory is subject to process of **desertification**, in a different degree.
- ◆ *Aral and Semey regions* are announced as zones of ecological disaster
- ◆ Significant damage to the population's health is registered.
- ◆ Accumulation and processing of wastes is a national scale problem.

Slide 3

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Katerina; 22.02.2007



Up to 1,209,814 persons emigrated from Kazakhstan between 1995 and 2005 (UNDP 2005).

- In 1991-2006, 550, 000 native Kazakh repatriates (oralman) arrived from Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Turkmenistan, Kyrgyzstan and Iran (Kalieva 2007).
- Only a small number of the repatriates settled in the East Kazakhstan (4%) and Kyzylorda (3%) oblasts.
- In 2003, Kazakhstan reached high 9th place in the top 10 receiving countries immigrants, and 7th place per thousand of population (The World Bank 2006).



Significant **increase in labour immigration**

has been recorded in recent years

- ◆ From 10,720 migrant workers in 2001 to 58,862 in 2007 (ASRK 2008).
- ◆ In 2006 only, 164,500 irregular migrant workers identified by authorities (ASRK 2008).
- ◆ About 500,000 migrant workers (mainly from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan), as estimated in 2007.



Fieldwork (non-migrants)

- ◆ 15 non-migrants living in Abay district in EastKazakhstan oblast and Aralsk district in Kyzylorda oblast were questioned.
- ◆ The age of the respondents ranged from 31 to 83 years, most of them had secondary or higher education.
- ◆ Respondents pointed out unemployment and insufficient income as the main reason of migration.
- ◆ Environmental reasons played the second reason for the migration.



No mood to migrate , despite bad environmental conditions ...

- ◆ strong ties to their place of living (including ethnic Kazakhs' strong territory ties related to their clan and sub-clan identity)
- ◆ Lack of funds to move, little income, difficulties with selling properties in environmentally degraded territories
- ◆ Hard to find appropriate place to move (“Where I go?”, “In other places there are problems as well...”)



Fieldwork (migrants)

- ◆ 15 migrants currently living in the outskirts of Almaty were questioned.
- ◆ 9 migrants moved from Karakalpakstan autonomy (the Republic of Uzbekistan).
- ◆ 6 respondents moved from the East Kazakhstan oblast, close to the former Semipalatinsk nuclear testing ground.



Why they migrated ...

- ◆ Poor environmental conditions, and also :
- ◆ - unemployment
- ◆ - lack of good educational institutions
- ◆ - difficult access to social services
- ◆ - difficult access to financial services
- ◆ - significant distances to region's centre, food and goods purchase points, schools
- ◆ - no opportunities to start their own business



Environment is not the only reason

- ◆ Intense relocation of the economically active population (particularly young people) from the villages and environmentally sensitive regions to regions with better environment conditions.
- ◆ All respondents are satisfied with the present place of residence and they are not going to leave, because all of them have decent living conditions here.
- ◆ As the results of the study show, **migration from environmentally sensitive areas is due primarily to migrants' efforts in securing favourable conditions for life.**